

Message Text

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TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 269553

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THE FOLLOWING REPEATS COLOMBO 3371 ACTION
SECSTATE INFO LONDON NEW DELHI 05 DEC 74. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3371

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MPOL, MARR, PARM, UK, IO, CE

SUBJ: BRITISH APPROVAL OF U.S. DIEGO PLANS: SRI LANKA REACTION

REF: STATE 264711

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION TOLD US MORNING
DECEMBER 3 THAT IT HAD DISCRETION INFORMED GSL "
FEW HOURS AHEAD OF TIME" OF DIEGO AND GAN PORTIONS
OF PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT ON RESULTS HMG'S DEFENSE
REVIEW, AND THAT ACCORDINGLY BRITISH HIGH
COMMISSIONER HAD APPOINTMENT WITH TISSA WIJEYERATNE,
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LATE THAT AFTERNOON.

2. BRITISH HAVE NOW REPORTED THAT WIJEYERATNE'S
REACTION ON DIEGO WAS LOW KEY AND HIS EXPRESSION
OF CONCERN "PRO FORMA". HE IMPLIED THAT GSL
HAD RATHER EXPECTED HMG APPROVAL OF DIEGO EXPANSION
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AND SAID ONLY THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME NOISES ON THE

LEFT. WIJEYERATNE WAS MUCH MORE WORRIED ABOUT
BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM GAN.

3. COVERAGE OF PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT IN LOCAL
PRESS HAS BEEN PROMINENT ON INSIDE INTER
NATIONAL NEWS PAGES BUT CONFIRMED TO REUTERS REPORTS.
IN ONE STORY, FACT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM GAN WAS
MENTIONED AS PART OF LISTING OF VARIOUS PLACES FROM
WHICH WITHDRAWAL IS PLANNED. ONLY ONE ARTICLE HAS
REFERRED TO AGREEMENT TO PROCEED WITH PLANS TO
EXPAND FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA. MAIN PRESS
EMPHASIS HAS BEEN ON BRITISH INTENTION TO PULL
OUT OF SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND
WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA, ESPECIALLY SINGAPORE.

4. WE DECIDED NOT TO MAKE ANY FORMAL APPROACHES
TO GSL ON MATTER BUT WILL RESPOND TO ANY CEYLONESE
COMMENTS OR INQUIRIES IN LINE WITH DEPARTMENT'S
GUIDANCE SET FORTH REFTEL AND IN STATE 22251,
FEBRUARY 5.
BYRNE

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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